



Northern Hemisphere snow cover anomalies, or departure from 30-year mean snow cover. The plot above is based on monthly snow maps from the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, displaying snow-covered area from 1967–2006. Note the stepwise decrease in snow extent in the mid- to late-1980s, and the contrast in snow extent between the 1970s through the mid-1980s, with the period from about 1987–2005. (Data courtesy Dave Robinson and Tom Estilow, Global Snow Lab, Department of Geography, Rutgers University; photograph by Gracey Stinson, courtesy morgueFile, Inc.)